

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

NEA-10 ACDA-19 OMB-01 RSR-01 /140 W

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R 171045Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1046

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ROME

CINCLANT

USCINCEUR

COMIDEASTFOR

DIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1053

CINCLANT AND USCINCEUR FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGSXVGC PFOR MASS SO UR IT

SUBJ: MILITARY SITREP

REF: MOGADISCIO 0780

1. SUMMARY. ITALIAN MILATT BELIEVES SOMALI DEFENSE FORCES
REMAIN AT HIGH LEVEL OF ALERT. SECURITY VERY TIGHT UPCOUNTRY.

2. MILATT TRAVELED EARLY LAST WEEK TO CENTRAL SECTOR HEAD-
QUARTERS AT BELET UEN. WHILE THERE NO DIFFICULTY IN OB-
TAINING GSDR PERMISSION MAKE TRIP, HE ENCOUNTERED MORE RE-
STRICTIONS THAN USUAL EN ROUTE AND WHILE AT BELET UEN. GOVER-
NOR EXPLAINED TO HIM THAT SEVERAL AREAS WERE OFF LIMITS, IN-
CLUDING CHIESE ROAD CAMP SOME TEN KILOMETERS NORTH OF TOWN.
ROADBLOCKS AND SENTRIES MORE NUMEROUS THAN ON PREVIOUS TRIP.

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3. MILATT FINDS IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO MEET WITH DEFENSE SECRETARY SAMANTAR AND HIS DEPUTY, BRIG GEN ABDALLA FADIL, E.G., AN APPOINTMENT TO PRESENT NEW ITALIAN AMBASSADOR TO SAMANTAR HAS BEEN PENDING FOR FEW WEEKS. ACCORDING MILATT, SENIOR SOMALI OFFICERS NOW SPENDING MUCH MORE TIME IN FIELD ESPECIALLY ON TOURS OF BORDER AREA.

4. MILATT STATES SOMALIS NOW HAVE FUNCTIONING EFFICIENT NETWORK OF RADAR ALONG ETHIOPIAN BORDER. EVIDENCE OF THIS IS FACT ALITALIA AND EGYPT AIR AIRCRAFT WHICH TRADITIONALLY HAVE FLOWN RATHER CASUAL FLIGHT ROUTES FROM ADDIS AND ADEN RESPECTIVELY ARE NOW NOTIFIED PROMPTLY BY GSDR WHEN THEY STRAY FROM COMMERCIAL FLIGHT CORRIDOR.

5. HE SAYS NEW MILITARY AIRFIELD AT UANLE UEN NOW OPERATIONAL AND ALMOST ALL AIRCRAFT AND PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN MOVED FROM MILITARY INSTALLATION AT MOGADISCIO AIRPORT TO UANLE UEN. EMBASSY COMMENT: FOUR IL 28 HAVE NOT BEEN SEEN AT MOGADISCIO FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. HOWEVER, DURING EGYPTIAN DEFENSE MINISTER VISIT LAST WEEK SEVEN MIG-17S WERE AT MOGADISCIO AND CONDUCTED FLYPAST AND ACROBATICS FOR VISITING EGYPTIAN. IF IN FACT ALL COMBAT AIRCRAFT WILL NOT BE SAHIONED A UANLE UEN, THIS WILL ADD ONE MORE DIFFICULTY TO EMBASSY DIRECT OBSERVATION AND SOURCES OF INFORMATION.

6. MILATT STATES THAT SIAD AND PERSONAL BODYGUARD ARE ONLY MILITARY WHO NOW RESIDENT IN HEADQUARTERS COMPOUND NEAR AIRPORT. QUESTION OF SIAD'S MOVING TO NEW HEADQUARTERS SOUTHWEST OF CITY IF STILL OPEN. FROM HIS PERSONAL STANDPOINT, HE LIKES HIS OLD FAMILIAR QUARTERS AND FINDS IT USEFUL FOR CIVILIAN SIDE OF HIS JOB. ON OTHER HAND, BOTH FROM PERSONAL PROTECTION AND IN TERMS OF KEEPING TRACK OF MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS, HE WOULD SEEM BETTER ADVISED TO MOVE TO NEW HEADQUARTERS AREA. CROMWELL

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